

Appl. Serial No. 09/785,457
Amendment dated March 30, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 13, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, as amended, now stand in the application, claim 1 having been amended to include the subject matter of cancelled original claim 5.

Allowance of the amended claims is courteously solicited for the following reasons.

According to Applicant's invention, a method of constructing directories in terminals connected by a local area network is provided, wherein a message is broadcast from a given first terminal, and decoded at a second terminal which extracts the name and address of the given terminal. The extracted name and address are inserted into a directory of the second terminal, whereby a response message is transmitted to the sending terminal. The response message is decoded, and the name and address of the second terminal are extracted and inserted in mapping relationship into a directory of the first terminal.

Claim 1 has been amend to more particularly define the characterizing feature of the operation of the invention described in the specification from page 9, line 27 to page 10, line 12. Thus, upon the connection of a given terminal with the network, that terminal broadcasts a message containing its name and address. Another terminal decodes the broadcast message, extracts and inserts in its directory the name and address of the given terminal, and transmits a response message containing the name and address of said other terminal. If the given terminal recognizes its own address in the response message, it will extract from the response message the name and address of the other terminal, and insert this information in mapping relationship in its own directory.

The applicant courteously contends that this characterizing feature of the present invention is not disclosed in the references cited by the Examiner.

The U. S. patent to Matsuzaki No. 4,998,248 discloses means in an ISDN network for identifying multimedia terminals 2A₁, 2B₁ (Figure 2) and media devices 22a to 24a, 22b to 24b within each multimedia terminal. In particular, as set forth on column 4, line 62 to column 5, line 10, each multimedia terminal 2A₁, 2B₁ is provides with a data file 14a, 14b including a table 30a ,

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30b storing the address of the multimedia terminal and the addresses of the media devices, and for each other multimedia terminal, a table 32a, 32b storing the address of said each other multimedia terminal and the addresses and names of the media devices within said each other multimedia terminal.

The data in these tables are inputted through the input devices 24a, 24b in each terminal before the beginning of a data communication between two terminals, or are inputted in a terminal and send to the other terminals (col.5, l. 41 - 46).

Therefore Matsuzaki only suggests the broadcasting of a message with addresses of "other" terminals from a given terminal, but not to extract the address of the given terminal to build in each other terminal a response message with the address of the given terminal and the address of said each other terminal and to transmit this response message only to the given terminal.

Matsuzaki derives tables of multimedia terminal and media device addresses before any connection between two terminals (see Fig. 4), but does not automatically build and progressively complete a directory (correspondence between names and addresses) in each of the terminals, including the given terminal, after each installation or connection of a terminal to the ISDN network. Furthermore the message from a given terminal wherein a user can set freely the structure of the sub-address in the ISDN address (col.5, l. 41 to col.6, l. 3), is a connecting demanding signal (Figure 3) to indicate to another terminal a selected media device with which the given terminal wishes communicate. This message, i.e. the connecting demanding signal, is not thus intended for a construction a directory, or e.g. a table in the other terminal.

As previously pointed out in Applicant's Remarks in the prior Amendment, the U.S. Matsubara et al. patent teaches a table (Figs. 9 and 10) that is not a directory (correspondence between names and addresses) which is progressively and automatically built and completed after each installation or connection of a terminal; this reference does not suggest the invention defined in amended claim 1, and particularly the third paragraph relating to the extracting, inserting and transmitting steps.

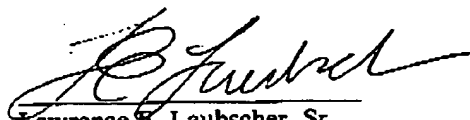
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Since the amended claims 1-4 now standing in the application are courteously believed to be patentably distinguishable from the cited prior art, allowance of the application is courteously requested.

Favorable action is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

3/30 2005


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